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fashion and in the rage of extravagance which is so natural to us, we have been installing Bureaus based on the Anthropometric System without knowing how to manage them at all, and without knowing the consequences of the installation. We have been losing opportunities. It is time that the extravagance were halted, and that a better system were put into operation, which would save time and money and would ensure accuracy. The fingerprint system is simple. It takes a very short time to take prints; anybody can take them; it does not require trained individuals; there is no possibility of error; the prints speak for themselves; human fallibility does not play any part in the work of taking the prints; the classification is simpler than the classification under the Anthropometric System and facilitates the search for the identity of the individuals. In addition to all these advantages, it has the almost inestimable advantage of making it possible to identify a criminal before he has been caught, if that criminal has a record. Criminals are very often caught in Europe, and have been caught in the City of New York through the fact that the fingerprint system was in operation, and that the perpetrator of a crime had a criminal record and left his traces at the scene of the crime.

I visited the Photographic Department also, and was treated to a view of the most elaborate tattooing that I have even seen. The case was so interesting that the Photographic Department took the picture of the individual concerned stripped. He was tattooed all over with the most elaborate and most beautiful designs, which would have made Lombroso leap with joy and which Havelock Ellis would have added to his collection, as gems. I am seeking to get a collection of photographs of tattooed criminals for America.

ROBERT FERRARI.

PROBATION

Report of Massachusetts Commission on Probation.¹—The Eighth Annual Report of the Massachusetts Commission on Probation is filled with excellent material. It should be in the hands of all who have the responsibility of directing probation work. The report calls attention to the following:

(1) That probation rests in the first place upon the idea that it has to deal with normal persons who have committed offenses but who have not become hardened offenders or impervious to appeals to their better selves.

(2) That the increase in the number placed in probation each year from 1909 to 1916 is not due to a lax administration of criminal law but rather to

(a) The multiplication of laws establishing new offenses,

(b) Better enforcement of law by police authorities—hence more arrests,

(c) The fact that probation has by experience been shown to be the proper treatment for many individuals.

(3) In 1916, 26.2 per cent of all offenders, or 28,953, were placed on probation. Of these 73 per cent were released with improvement.

(4) In 1916, \$38,452.19 was collected by probation officers as restitution and reparation and \$303,009.01 from deserting husbands and fathers.

(5) The problem of the delinquent defective will not be solved by probation and probationary methods.

¹Commission on Probation—Robert O. Harris, Chairman; John D. McLaughlin, William Sullivan, John Perrins, Jr., Charles M. Davenport; Herbert C. Parsons, Deputy Commissioner and Secretary.

(6) Probation officers should be appointed by judges and not by any commission.

JOEL D. HUNTER, *Chicago*.

Meeting of the National Probation Association.—The Family Court to take over the work of children's courts and so-called domestic relations courts, co-ordinating all investigations and probationary treatment of children and cases arising out of family difficulties, including non-support and divorce, was advocated in resolutions adopted by the National Probation Association at its ninth annual conference at Pittsburgh, June 5th to 7th. A report urging such a family court was presented by a special committee of the Association, which has been investigating the matter during the past year. Judge Charles W. Hoffman of the Court of Domestic Relations of Cincinnati is chairman of the Committee, which was continued to do active work during the coming year.

Judge Hoffman said in his report to the Association: "The unit of society is not the individual, but the family. The causes of juvenile delinquency, dependency of children, desertion and non-support, pauperism, alcoholism, divorce and marital dissensions are inter-related. All these in a measure can be traced to some defect in the family, and that defect in many instances is so obscure that current methods of dealing with domestic relations fail to reveal them. It is apparent that to deal with the family effectively, to relieve present distress and to ascertain causes of disruption of the family and the causes of anti-social conduct in general it is necessary that some court have power to deal with the family as a unit."

It was urged that the family court be under the direction of a single judge, who may in the large circuits assign the entire charge of certain classes of cases to specially qualified judges. The report recommends ample probation departments, with medical and psychological clinics attached.

The work of the Philadelphia Municipal Court was discussed in this connection by Mrs. Jane D. Rippin, Chief Probation Officer. This court is in many respects a family court. The evils of treating the parents and children in different courts with no interchange of records have been obviated to a large degree by the co-ordination of the court's work, especially of the probation department.

The Committee on Juvenile Courts reported through its chairman, Mr. Roger N. Baldwin, that the co-operation of the Federal Children's Bureau had been obtained for the making of a nation-wide study of the Juvenile Court in this country. This will comprise a field study and the findings will be published.

Departments of diagnosis in the courts employing physicians and psychologists to work in close co-operation with the probation officers were advocated by Dr. William Healy and Dr. Victor Anderson, both of Boston.

The need for detention homes for children removed from their surroundings or where children may be held for observation and investigation, established on the county plan, so that they may be available to rural districts, was emphasized, and the Association appointed a committee to deal with this matter during the coming year.

Adult responsibility in children's cases was discussed. Juvenile courts have not dealt adequately with parents and others responsible for delinquent or